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Henry Hastings Hall to George Bracher, 13 April 1860

Freemason's Hotel
Perth Ap^l 13th 1860

Dear George

I promised to tell you the news in a letter which you will receive by this Mail I have after much bargaining sold Woongong for £1050 to a man named Liddelow a butcher who is rather a late arrival and carrying on business in the premises or rather site formerly occupied by the Club House but on which there is now a good two storey house. At the instigation of G Shenton who has become a great man the front street is being leveled and the buildings formerly stuck on the hill have now other buildings in front brought down to the level — the side between Shentons and the Officers quarters has been cut away and all the sand transported on tramways to the River side.

Anderton has been very ill he was in bed for a few days and got so brought down that a week after he had apparently recovered we went to Mandurah together and in the evening he had two successive fainting fits at Suttons and we thought he was dying — I was recommended to bleed him in the absence of a D^r but refused as I considered he was too weak already the next day D^r Bridges came down on his way South & he said if I had bled him under the circumstances I should have killed him. Ander is going to live at my father's late place and I think can do far better than at Woongong — I am going to the Blackwood to look at a "Run" I have heard of, the only one to be procured. I have to leave my place on the 1st of May — I expected to have got more for it, but thought it better to sell than to lose more time over it. Today I performed the melancholy duty of removing my poor Mothers coffin from Woongong to the Perth Cemetery I started at 3 oclk in the morning and did not get it all over until 1 oclock, noon, she now rests by the side of our other dear parent. I shall not think our duty towards them is done until we have erected a nice marble slab to their memory it is the last respect we can pay them ere we ourselves enter on Eternity — the expenses would be from £30 to 38£ and might be borne among us — The Lawyers tell me I must not divide any of the property (except at my

own risk) for the next five years but I shall divide the house hold affairs very shortly and expect those participating in the division to bear me *harmless* for the value they receive in case any claim be put in, in the time — I will select for Sarah such things as are most portable and at the same time of fair value — I have to select for all except Anderton and only hope I may give satisfaction. I shall ship them in the proper manner and of course you will have to bear the expense which will not be much. In my letter of Good friday which you will receive with this, yours of last month is fully noticed I shall therefore say no more on that unpleasant subject than to repeat, your demands shall be fully satisfied by the 16th of May Mail. The Races have made the place quite gay but I was not there. Bibra had a horse killed and Ja^s Guerin won £300.

Tell Shake not to bring up a wife when he comes, as it will only increase the expense of passage, and there are such a blooming lot of girls here now that he might be dissatisfied with his choice *there* when he saw these. Even L Leake says “if some of these girls had been old enough when he was single he should have been *spooney* on them” — Rob^t Austin leaves by this mail to take an appointment as Assistant Surveyor in Queensland salary £500 — the same as Mr Roe gets here. Mrs Leake and Kate now Mrs Steere are expected in the Colony very day. Frank is talking of getting married in Sept^r and I think he will live at the Vasse *His intended* has been staying with us for several weeks but has now returned home two of her sisters are at boarding school in Perth some gentlemen are here from M— to start a new Bank. Your letter by the May Mail will be *registered* and directed to the Sandhurst P.O. Give my love to Sarah and the *children* I suppose I must scarcely include Fanny among them now — believe me to remain

Yours very affect^{ly}

H H Hall